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POLAND: Unrest in Lublin

Widespread labor unrest in Lublin yesterday, triggered by economic grievances, appears to be the most serious in Poland since meat price increases on 1 July led to a series of strikes.

The disturbances--highlighted by railroad workers blocking the tracks with their locomotives--ended the calm that prevailed in Poland for several days. Strikes were reported in many plants in the city, and military vehicles are said to be delivering food to stores and hospitals.

Demands for wage increases apparently are fueling the protests. A number of other grievances, ranging from frustration over meat and other food shortages to complaints over specific working conditions, also are contributing to the recurring unrest throughout the country.

In an apparent hint that continued disorder could provoke Soviet military intervention, party chief Gierek yesterday said that "lack of discipline" was endangering the country.

The regime's stance since the initial strikes in early July has generally been conciliatory. Although the meat price hikes--which no longer seem to be an important contributor to the labor turmoil--were not rescinded, the regime has granted wage increases, averaging 10 percent, to at least some striking workers.

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